

17 December 1987

PRESS STATEMENT OF WILLIAM H. WEBSTER REGARDING
THE IRAN-CONTRA MATTER

CIA Director William H. Webster announced today that he has completed his study of a report prepared by a Special Counsel appointed by him to review the role of the Agency and Agency personnel in the Iran-Contra matter. Director Webster has disciplined those employees found to have engaged in improper activities. Those actions included dismissals, demotions, and letters of reprimand.

Webster has also initiated actions aimed at strengthening the organizational structure of the Agency. These actions are described in a section of the Report dealing with remedial measures taken by the Agency since the Iran-Contra matter became public.

In particular, the Report describes steps taken by Director Webster to strengthen the function and effectiveness of the CIA's Office of the Inspector General (IG). These measures include steps to ensure that the IG's inspection staff is drawn from a cross-section of people within the Agency. Furthermore, assignment to the IG Staff will become an important career development assignment enroute to more senior positions in the Agency. The size of the IG's investigative staff will be increased, and the training and support provided to that staff will be improved.

Guidelines have been drafted to govern the testimony of future Agency witnesses when appearing before congressional committees, briefing individual

congressional members or their staff, or providing written testimony to Congress. The guidelines balance the protection of sources and methods with the need to be candid and complete in all Agency dealings with Congress.

Director Webster also has initiated actions to strengthen senior management review of covert activities. The covert action review process will be institutionalized in Agency headquarters regulations. The Agency's senior management must meet to review all proposed Findings and related documents that are to be forwarded to the National Security Council. Senior management also conducts a semi-annual review of each covert action program.

Other actions taken by Director Webster include the issuance of guidelines for interagency intelligence production intended to foster an environment for the maximum objectivity of intelligence assessments and to help insulate intelligence analysis from political influence.

The Special Counsel commenced his review September 1, 1987. In compiling the Report, the Special Counsel reviewed the findings of the Tower Commission, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, the Congressional Iran-Contra Committees, and relevant reports of the CIA Inspector General. The Special Counsel did not have access to any materials or information developed during the course of the investigation being conducted by Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh.

The Report of the Special Counsel, which is classified, has been furnished in its entirety to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. A summary of the Report's conclusions regarding facts and information already made public by the Tower Commission and the Iran-Contra Committees is attached.